

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
GLORIA MOLINA

May 27, 2008

The death of a child to whom the County provided services is always a tragedy. In the aftermath of such a death, the County conducts investigations in order to determine what went wrong and to make policy changes, if necessary, to hopefully prevent such tragedies from occurring again. The Board of Supervisors sets County policy and directs the conduct of County operations; for the Board to effectively respond to child deaths it must be able to access the records of the deceased child(ren).

Current pending legislation, Assembly Bill 2904 (Hayashi), would restrict the Board's current access to the juvenile court records and any other records of involved County departments and agencies when a child dies in the County. The legislation would require a finding of abuse or neglect to be made by the Department of Children and Family Services, law enforcement or the County Coroner before the Board could have any access. In addition, the legislation would only allow the Board to have access to these records as a body meeting in closed session.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the CEO work with County Counsel to:

1. Draft amendments to Assembly Bill 2904 that remove the restriction that a finding of abuse or neglect be made prior to the Board having access to case information as well as the requirement that the Board meet as a whole and in closed session when reviewing case information; and
2. Draft a 5-signature letter requesting that the bill to be amended as described above, and that if the County's proposed amendments are not accepted, Los Angeles County oppose this legislation.

LM S:\Motions\Assembly Bill 2904